

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY, MANAGEMENT, AND EVALUATION - NEWSBYTES -

November/December 2003

Office of the Chair

HPME Year End Celebration !

The Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Faculty of Medicine, invites you to attend our year-end celebration.



Date: Thursday, December 4, 2003
 Time: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Gallery Grill Hart House
 7 Hart House Circle, 2nd floor
 Toronto, Ontario
[Map](#)



HPME Research Day 2004 - Keynote Speaker: Peter Ubel

Mark your calendars for Research Day ! - May 4, 2004

2 - 4 p.m.	Poster Presentations Alumni Lounge, Medical Sciences Building (MSB)
4 - 5:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker and Awards Ceremony Room 3154, MSB
5 - 7 p.m.	Wine and Cheese Reception Alumni Lounge, MSB

Keynote speaker, Peter A. Ubel, will speak on "**The Unbearable Rightness of Bedside Rationing**". Dr. Ubel is Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan, a primary care physician at the Ann Arbor Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Director of the Program for Improving Health Care Decisions. His research explores controversial issues about the role of values and preferences in health care decision making, from decisions at the bedside to policy decisions. He uses the tools of decision psychology to explore ethical debates about topics like informed consent and health care rationing. He is author of "Pricing Life: Why It Is Time For Health Care Rationing" (MIT Press, 2000) and is currently writing a book on illness, disability and the search for happiness.

Research

HPME Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Wendy Young Leads Evaluation of eHealth Project

[Saint Elizabeth Health Care](#), a founding Home and Community Care Evaluation and Research Centre (HCERC) donor and decision-making partner to [Health Care Settings and Canadians](#), has received project funding from [CANARIE](#) to evaluate the merging of three innovative e-learning and e-care applications. The "Web of Wisdom" (WOW) approach encompasses education, remote monitoring, expert assessment, and knowledge creation in the respective areas of wound care and cardiac care. Implementation sites range from urban to rural and remote locations in Ontario, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.

The project evaluation is being led by Saint Elizabeth's senior researcher, [Dr. Wendy Young](#), a CHSRF Post-Doctoral Fellow whose co-supervisor is CHSRF/CIHR Health Services Chair [Dr. Peter C. Coyte](#). Based on an innovative performance measurement system, the project evaluation will provide information on client outcomes, health provider outcomes, return on investment and implementation success. The final report will be submitted to CANARIE in March 2004.

For more information, email knowledge@saintelizabeth.com.

Update on the Primary Care Performance Indicators Project

[Dr. Jan Barnsley](#), HPME Associate Professor, is leading a research study that involves primary care performance assessment. Members of the Primary Care Performance Indicators Project include Judith MacPhail, the project coordinator; Paula Heiniger, administrative assistant; other HPME faculty including [Rhonda Cockerill](#), [Whitney Berta](#) and Eugene Vayda; as well as primary care physicians from Western Hospital/Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto (Dr. Jeff A. Bloom); from Mount Sinai Hospital/Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto (Dr. Yves Talbot) and from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences/ Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre/ Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto (Dr. Liisa Jaakkimainen).

Four data collection instruments are currently being reviewed and revised based on analysis of data quality and feedback from the Field Test of Primary Care Performance Indicators. In keeping with their interest in ongoing collaboration and dialogue with family physicians and nurse practitioners, an Expert Panel is being composed of previous study participants who will be rating new and revised primary care performance indicators. The expert Panel will assess the indicator relevance for performance evaluation. A manual containing a review of the evidence associated with each indicator will be provided to the panel to assist them in the rating process. These indicators are being considered for use in a proposed study of 50 primary care practices in Ontario.

As well, some of the new project activities include:

- A Website Developer has been hired to assist the research team in the design and maintenance of a Primary Care Performance Indicators Project website. The chief purpose of this site will be to disseminate project information and activities.
 - Work is currently underway to convert the paper-based data collection instruments to an electronic version.
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Fall Conference Presentations

SARS Symposium

Several HPME Faculty chaired sessions and delivered presentations at the SARS Symposium, "Learning from SARS: Challenges for Public Health" held on September 17, 2003 at Mount Sinai Hospital.

- [Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles](#) presented "Understanding Health Organizations Response" in the Public and Institutional Responses session, chaired by Dr. Ross Baker;
- [Dr. Raisa Deber](#) presented "Priorities in Public Health Policy" in the Preparing for Global Challenges to Public Health session;
- [Dr. David Zakus](#) chaired the International Perspectives from China session.

Presentations by Dr. Lemieux-Charles and Dr. Deber are available through the [Public Health Sciences](#) website.

Ontario Hospital Association Convention and Exhibition

The following members of HPME presented at the [2003 Ontario OHA Convention and Exhibition](#), "Today's Choices, Tomorrow's Care":

- Evidence-Based Health Care Session: "A Canadian Study to Measure Adverse Events in Canadian Hospitals", [G. Ross Baker](#), Associate Professor
- ACHE/CCHSE Session: "Addressing the Challenges for Health Care Leaders: Current Dilemmas and Policy Initiatives", [G. Ross Baker](#), Associate Professor
- Health Information Management Session: "The Politics of Implementing the Electronic Health Record in the Post-Romanow Era", [A. Paul Williams](#), Associate Professor
- Women's Health Session: "Mainstreaming Women's Health Reporting", [Adalsteinn D. Brown](#), Principal Investigator, Hospital Report Project, Assistant Professor
- Patient Satisfaction/Quality Improvement Session: "Success Stories", [Michael Murray](#), Senior Research Associate, Hospital Report Project

International Health

[Dr. David Zakus](#), Associate Professor in HPME, presented two papers at the [10th Canadian Conference on International Health](#) in Ottawa, October 26-29, 2003:

- "Enhancing Health Contributions to the World's Poorest - Analyses of Several Global Health Interventions Based at the University of Toronto" and
- "Research Challenges at the Centre for International Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto".

Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction Patients

This fall [Dr. Therese Stukel](#), HPME Professor and Research Director of the [Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences](#), presented "Long-term Survival Effects of Invasive vs. Medical Management of Medicare AMI Patients; Using Area-level Exposures as Instruments" at the following conferences:

- Dartmouth Medical School Center for the Evaluative Sciences Annual Research Meeting on "Causes and Consequences of Health Care Intensity", September 15-16, 2003, Holderness, NH.
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and Academy Health's 5th International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services: Global Evidence for Local Decisions, September 20-22, 2003, Washington, DC (invited poster).
- International Conference on Health Policy Research (ICHPR) 2003, October 16-19, 2003, Chicago, IL.

For more information on Stukel's research on the relationship between acute myocardial infarction (AMI) spending and quality of care see the [March/April 2003](#) issue of NewsBytes.

Rheumatology

[Dr. Paul Fortin](#), Associate Professor in HPME, presented "Comparison of Cost-of-Illness RA Estimates Elicited by the Willingness to Pay and Human Capital Methodologies" at the American College of Rheumatology / Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals Annual Scientific Meeting, October 24-28, 2003 in Orlando, Florida.

Therese Stukel Co-Chairs 2003 International Conference on Health Policy

Therese Stukel also co-chaired the [2003 International Conference on Health Policy Research](#) (ICHPR) Scientific Planning Committee. ICHPR is a bi-annual scientific conference sponsored by the Health Policy and Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association that focuses on the interface between research methodology and health policy. This conference provides a forum for discussing research needs and solutions to methodological challenges in health services research.

Research and Teaching Profiles

Faculty associated with the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME) are involved in a broad range of research activities with a variety of organizations. Success of the HPME Knowledge Transfer initiative is dependent on presenting our stakeholders with a unified, clear image of the depth and breadth of Departmental expertise. To promote greater internal awareness of the knowledge developed through HPME, faculty research profiles will be included as a regular feature of this newsletter.

This issue of the HPME newsletter features a research profile for Professor Anthony (Tony) John Culyer.

+ + PROFILE OF THE MONTH + +

Anthony (Tony) Culyer, CBE, BA, Hon D Econ, Hon FRCP, FMedSci

Professor Tony Culyer is a specialist in health economics based in York, England, at the University of York's Department of Economics and Related Studies. He has taught health economics at universities around the world and has been advisor to governments in several countries. Professor Culyer recently accepted an Adjunct Faculty position with HPME while taking a three year leave from his position in York to serve as Chief Scientist at the Institute for Work and Health (see [IWH bio](#)). His current scholarly interests include health economics and efficiency and equity issues associated with the workplace.

Education and Work Background

Professor Culyer has held research and teaching positions at universities and research institutes in England, Canada, United States, Germany and New Zealand. He is a founding Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in London. In 1999, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics and in 2003 became an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London. At the University of York (England), Professor Culyer was for many years chair of the Department of Economics and Related Studies during which tenure he was also first Pro-Vice-Chancellor and subsequently Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the university, with special responsibilities in policies for research support and graduate school development. Before coming to Canada he was the university's Director of Health Development. He was a founding member of the Central Research and Development Committee of the National Health Service of England and Wales and founding vice-chair of the [National Institute for Clinical Excellence](#) (NICE) in London. In 1993, he chaired a national Task Force on Supporting Research and Development in the National Health Service, which produced an influential report widely known as the "Culyer Report".

In Canada, Professor Culyer has been a member of advisory groups to the (former) Ontario Workers' Compensation Board (1989-1992), the Institute for Work and Health (1990-2002), the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research (1992-8) and was appointed as the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation's first international trustee (2000-2003).

Research Activities

A co-editor of the international Journal of Health Economics, Dr. Culyer has served on journal editorial boards in health economics, medicine, medical ethics, social science and medical law. To date, he has published over 200 articles in various publications and scholarly journals. He has published more than two dozen books and many pamphlets and shorter papers.

Future Research

Professor Culyer is currently working on a new edition of his book *The Economics of Social Policy*, a new book *Dictionary of Health Economics*, papers on "rationing" health care in Europe and a policy paper for NICE on the scientific and social value judgments embodied in its health technology appraisals and clinical guidelines.

Professor Culyer has his own website which you can visit:

www-users.york.ac.uk/~ajc17/

Education

HPME Offers Two New Collaborative Programs

HPME currently offers seven [Collaborative Programs](#), giving Master's and PhD students the opportunity to specialize in a particular area of concentration in a multidisciplinary environment. Programs include Aging and the Life Course; Bio-ethics; Health Care, Technology and Place; International Relations; Women's Studies and, most recently, Health Services and Policy Research; and Cardiovascular Sciences.

Health Services and Policy Research

This program is offered in conjunction with the Ontario Training Centre in Health Services and Policy Research (OTC-HSR), a consortium of six Ontario universities that includes: Lakehead University, Laurentian University, McMaster University, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto and York University. The establishment of the centre is a response to the need for increased numbers of health services researchers to address critical issues in effective and efficient health care delivery (which has been identified as a top priority by national research funding agencies). Its overall goal is to increase health research capacity in Ontario through an innovative training program that builds on existing strengths in university and decision making environments.

Deadline to enroll for January 2004 Admission: November 28, 2003

Further information and application forms can be found on the [HPME website](#) or contact Rhonda Cockerill (rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca) or Patty Lindsay (patty.lindsay@utoronto.ca).

Cardiovascular Sciences Collaborative Program

This program will prepare students to specialize in the field of cardiovascular sciences as clinicians or researchers through exposure to joint graduate teaching and research across departments in the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Physical Education and Health. See the [Cardiovascular Sciences Collaborative Program](#) website for more information or contact Dr. Jack Tu (tu@ices.on.ca).

Honours and Awards

Ian Tannock Awarded the 2003 O. Harold Warwick Prize



Dr. Ian Tannock, Professor in the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research Program of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, received the O. Harold Warwick Prize, one of the Awards for Excellence in Cancer Research presented by the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Dr. Tannock is one of Canada's best-known oncologists. His research has been instrumental in improving the quality of clinical trials and cancer treatment worldwide. He introduced the use of quality of life and pain relief as effective outcome measurements in clinical trials and used these measurements to establish less toxic chemotherapy drugs as standard treatment for advanced prostate cancer. He is currently researching basic tumour biology to improve the outcome of chemotherapy treatments for cancer patients. In addition to his involvement with HPME, Dr. Tannock is a Senior Scientist with the Ontario Cancer Institute at Princess Margaret

Hospital, University Health Network, and Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto.

Claire Bombardier Selected for the 2003 Dales Award in Medical Research

Professor Claire Bombardier of HPME, Clinical Research Coordinator of the Institute for Work and Health and Head of the Division of Clinical Decision Making and Healthcare, Toronto General Research Institute, TGH, is this year's winner of the Dales Award in Medical Research. This award was established in 1991 by the University of Toronto to recognize sustained excellence in medical research. Given annually to honour a senior investigator of outstanding caliber whose research has had a substantive impact in the areas of clinical, community or basic health research, the cash award will go towards the direct costs of Bombardier's research in the evaluation of health interventions and the measurement of patient outcomes for a period of up to three years.



Paul Fortin Appointed Clinical Director of the New Lupus Clinical Trials Consortium



Dr. Paul Fortin, Associate Professor in the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research Program of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, received a 2004-2006 research grant from the Lupus Clinical Trials Consortium (LCTC) of \$100,000. Dr. Fortin is the Clinical Director of the LCTC which offers infrastructure funds to researchers conducting systemic lupus erythematosus research. Dr. Fortin is also Clinical Director of the Centre for Prognosis Studies in the Rheumatic Diseases based out of Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network.

Ben Chan Recipient of Canadian Family Physician Best Original Research Article Award

Dr. Ben Chan, Assistant Professor with HPME, and Dr. Howard Oven of Family and Community Medicine have been awarded the 2003 Canadian Family Physician Best Original Research Article Award for their paper "Frequent Users of Emergency Departments: Do They Also Use Family Physicians' Services?". This is an annual award presented by the College of Family Physician's of Canada and the Canadian Family Physician.

Gillian Hawker Receives Senior Investigator Award

Dr. Gillian Hawker, Associate Professor in HPME, received the Senior Investigator Award at the Department of Medicine at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre 2003 Awards Day in September. Dr. Hawker research focuses on the clinical evaluation of the determinants and treatments of osteoporosis, rheumatology, osteoarthritis, and musculoskeletal disorders.

2003 CHSRF Open Grants Competition

The 2003 Canadian Health Services Research Foundation Open Grants Competition sought proposals for research projects and programs of research in three priority areas: Health Human Resources, Managing Continuity; and Nursing Leadership, Organization, and Policy. Eighty letters of intent were received; fifty-seven were screened in as eligible and reviewed by the merit review panel. Twenty-eight full-scale applications were invited and twenty-six were received and reviewed by the merit review panel. The panel met on May 15-16, 2003 to review these applications. The overall approval rate of recommended full-scale applications was 61 percent (16/26). The following HPME faculty received grants in this competition:

***names in bold type are associated with HPME as core faculty, and cross-appointed and status-only members*

Health Human Resources

- **Ben Chan** and Jafna Cox Demand for Cardiovascular Care in Canada and Modules to Use Available Human Resources to Best Deliver Care

Nursing Leadership, Organization, and Policy

- **Linda O'Brien-Pallas**, Judith Shamian and Gail Tomblin Murphy Understanding the Costs and Outcomes of Nurses' Turnover in Canadian Hospitals

Appointments

New Status Only Appointments for September, October and November 2003

- Tony Culyer, Professor
Chief Scientist, Institute for Work and Health
 - John Szold, Lecturer
Managing Partner, Caliper Canada
Instructor, Schulich School of Business
 - Dr. Pierre Cote, Assistant Professor
Institute for Work and Health
 - Dr. Peter C. Austin, Assistant Professor
Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
 - Dr. Gail C. Hepburn, Lecturer
Institute for Work and Health
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Promotion

To Assistant Professor effective October 17, 2003:

- Dr. Pat Baranek
Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
Health Policy and Research Consultant

Students

The Department of HPME proudly presents the Class of 2003 - November Convocation

PhD

Tamara Daly
Patrice Lindsay
Leah Steele

MSc Health Administration

Lorraine Pederson
Sanober Motiwala
Shamali Wickremaraachi

MSc Clinical Epidemiology (Thesis)

Osman Al-Radi
Kerrayem Al-Suwaida
Michelle Caveen

Andrew Dueck
Andrea Gershon
Brent Graham

MSc Clinical Epidemiology (Non-Thesis)

Mary-Anne Aarts

Diploma Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research

K. Christopher Giede
Michael Miletin

MHSc Health Administration

Raza Awan

"Publish Your Manuscript" Workshop

A week-long career development workshop is being offered to PhD students from across the disciplines this February 2004 by the Health Care Technologies and Place CIHR strategic research and training initiative of HPME. In this proven career development workshop, students prepare a current piece of writing for a refereed journal and learn how to negotiate the scholarly publication process. For more details see the [HCTP website](#) or download the [Summary and Registration](#) (Acrobat PDF). Enrolment is very limited.

Publish Your Manuscript
13-19 February 2004
50 St. George Street, Room 109
Registration Deadline: December 5, 2003

Ava John-Baptiste Receives Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award

Ava John-Baptiste, HPME PhD student specializing in Health Services Outcomes and Evaluation Research, was awarded the 2003 CIHR [Canada Graduate Scholarship](#) for her study, "Estimating costs associated with hepatitis C (HCV) infection for input into a comprehensive decision analytic policy model to inform clinical decisions and policy development." Ms. John-Baptiste is working under the supervision of [Dr. Murray Krahn](#).

Michelle Kohli Receives Canadian Priority Setting Research Network Graduate

Michelle Kohli, HPME PhD student specializing in Health Services Outcomes and Evaluation Research, was awarded the 2003 [Canadian Priority Setting Research Network](#) (CPSRN) Graduate Award for her study, "Public Beliefs about Priority Setting Criteria". The CPSRN is based out of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics. Working under the supervision of [Dr. Peter Coyte](#), Ms. Kohli's study will describe the Canadian public's preference for priority setting criteria in the areas of patient type and services. The specific objective is to examine, through a review of the literature and quantitative analyses, the public's acceptance of the values that underpin the Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY) measure.

Alumni

Society of Graduates Annual General Meeting Dinner and Awards

The Annual General Meeting of the [Society of Graduates](#) was held on November 3, 2003. In addition to the business agenda, the event was a celebration of graduates of our HPME program, and as such recognized some of the great achievements of our alumni. **Barbara Quinn**, was the recipient of the Leadership Award for her significant contribution to the field of Health Administration. Barbara led the growth of COTA (Community Occupational Therapy Associates) from a staff of 5 to a staff of over 400 along with more than 200 volunteers. Today, COTA provides an essential home-care service, allowing many individuals to approach rehabilitation in their own homes. **Anne Wojtak**, was the recipient of the Literary Award for her article, "Practice-Based Ethics:

A Foundation for Human Resource Planning in Community Healthcare", which was published in Health Management Forum, Fall 2002. Anne gave a brief overview of her research and findings to the group, also important work in ensuring the provision of community services. In addition, the Silver Anniversary class of 1978 was honoured. **Bill McLeod** gave a short presentation on behalf of his class, recounting tales of his class's approach to team-based learning.

The business portion of the agenda included approval of the 2002-03 Audited Financial Statements, and election of the new Executive Committee of the Society of Graduates. Outgoing Executive Committee members were thanked for their contributions to the Society. **Nasir Noormohamed** was recognized for his leadership and dedication as President of the Society of Graduates over the past two years. In-coming Executive Committee members include; **Jennifer Clarke**, President (jennifer.clarke@moh.gov.on.ca), **Nasir Noormohamed**, Past President (nasir@drugintelligence.com), **Charissa Levy**, Treasurer, **Lisa Newman**, Secretary, and members at large; **Khanum Kheshavjee**, **Meg Sheehan**, **Sid Stacey**, **Dave Thomas**, **Ken Tremblay**, **Susan Tremblay**, and **Anne Wojtak**. **Tina Smith** remains the Faculty Representative, **Rose Jones** re-joins the group as the Business Manager, and **Pat Debrusk** moves to the position of 2nd year student representative.

Dr. Ian Dawe Appointed Head of U of T Faculty of Medicine Division of Psychiatry

Dr. Ian Dawe, alumnus of the HPME MHSc program (class of 1999) was appointed Head of the U of T Faculty of Medicine Division of General Psychiatry for a five-year term, beginning October 1, 2003. Dr. Dawe is Medical Director of the Psychiatric Emergency Service and Postgraduate Education Coordinator at St. Michael's Hospital. He also chairs the Research Committee of the American Association of Emergency Psychiatry.

Other Notables

"Encyclopedia Brown" Featured in the Canadian Healthcare Manager

[Dr. Adalsteinn Brown](#), Assistant Professor in HPME, was featured in the People section of the September 2003 issue of the [Canadian Healthcare Manager](#) for his leadership role on the [Ontario Hospital Report Project](#). Comparing his experience as a consultant in the US healthcare system with Ontario's report, Dr. Brown says "It became pretty clear to me that there were a lot of things going on here...that were way ahead of what I was trying to do south of the border." He attributes this to the high level of involvement and cooperation of Canadian hospitals and professionals working in the healthcare system: "We've got hundreds of people on these panels, we've got hospitals signing up voluntarily. I don't know if that would have been possible in the States...I guess it's kind of a nice Canadian success story and representative of how our system works."

The Hospital Report Project develops balanced scorecards for inpatient hospital care, emergency department care, and chronic care. It also includes special reports describing methods for performance measurement in rehabilitation, mental health, population health, women's health, and nursing. Dr. Brown is the principle investigator of the project which includes more than 35 researchers at three universities and six institutes.

First Workshop of the Canadian Priority Setting Research Network

[Dr. Doug Martin](#), HPME Assistant Professor and Director of the Collaborative Program in Bioethics, led the first workshop of the [Canadian Priority Setting Research Network](#) (CPSRN) at the [University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics](#) on August 25, 2003. Scholars and decision makers from Norway, England, Uganda, the United States and Canada met to discuss issues facing the field of priority setting - in particular, how to evaluate improvements to priority setting. Participants included leading priority setting scholars Norman Daniels, Chris Ham, Ole Frithjof Norheim, and the CEO of UK's National Institute for Clinical Excellence, Andrew Dillon.

Funded by an Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the CPSRN is involved in the following projects:

- Evaluating Interventions to Improve Priority Setting
- Developing a Global Priority Setting Research Network
- Public Beliefs about Priority Setting Criteria
- Exploring the Role of District Health Authorities and Community Health Boards: Attending to the Health Needs of African Nova Scotians
- Priority Setting in Response to SARS
- Priority Setting in Hospitals: a system wide-study
- Priority Setting and Health System Reform

Official Launch of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

[Dr. David Zakus](#), Associate Professor in HPME and Director of the [Centre for International Health](#) is pleased to announce the official launch of the [Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research](#) (CCGHR), on October 28, 2003. Dr. Zakus is a member of the Interim Board of Directors and Chair of the Training Committee of CCGHR. For more information, download the first issue of [Global Connections](#) (Acrobat PDF), CCGHR's newsletter. For more information on global health research funding, see the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) strategic initiatives, [Global Health Research Initiative](#).

Centre for International Health Launches HIV/AIDS Initiative for Africa

The Centre for International Health (CIH) launched its HIV/AIDS Initiative for Africa on October 24, 2003 at the Rotman School of Management. James Orbinski provided the key note address and members of the CIH HIV/AIDS Steering Committee provided presentations, co-chaired by [Dr. David Zakus](#) of HPME and Owens Wiwa.

For information on the latest events and happenings at the Centre for International Health, please consider joining the CIH [Listserv](#).

Ben Chan Takes on New Role as CEO of Saskatchewan's Health Quality Council

Dr. Ben Chan, Assistant Professor in HPME and Senior Scientist with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), began his new position as CEO of the [Health Quality Council](#) on October 1, 2003. The Health Quality Council is a new, independent agency that will report on and recommend innovative ways to improve quality within Saskatchewan's health system. Led by an appointed panel of provincial, national, and international health leaders, the HQC will provide advice to government, regional health authorities, and health care professionals on a wide range of issues related to health system quality and performance.

The PEDE Project - A Website Devoted to Paediatric Health Economic Research

The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute is pleased to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to paediatric health economic evaluation.

The Paediatric Economic Database Evaluation (PEDE) project featured on the website is part of a unique research program in paediatric health economic methods developed by [Dr. Wendy Ungar](#), Assistant Professor in HPME and Scientist in Population Health Sciences, Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute. The PEDE project recognizes that there are unique challenges in applying standard health economic methods to children.

The first of its kind, PEDE features a database containing detailed information for over 1,000 published paediatric economic evaluations. Publications of economic evaluations of treatments and services for children have grown 10-fold since 1980, reflecting an increasing interest in understanding how the costs of treatment are weighed against the health benefits. Understanding the cost-effectiveness of treatments and services for children is essential for ensuring that the resources available in our economically constrained health-care system are allocated in the most efficient manner.

The PEDE database is freely accessible on the Internet with a user-friendly search engine. The full output includes detailed information about study characteristics for each publication. This database is a valuable tool for clinicians interested in a particular condition or treatment, for scientists wishing to examine paediatric health services, and for health economists and policy decision-makers desiring to learn more about the economic benefits of particular treatments and services.

Research studies related to various phases of the PEDE project are published in the current issues of *Medical Care and Value in Health* and a forthcoming edition of *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. A full technical report is available online.

The Web site can be found at: <http://pede.bioinfo.sickkids.on.ca/pede>.

Support for this research program comes from The Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment and The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute and from in-kind support from the Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Wendy J. Ungar is supported by a Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Career Award.

National Health Law Conference 2004

The [Health Law & Policy Group](#) at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, will be hosting a national conference on health law and policy issues on January 23-24, 2004. The conference theme is "Who Gets It? Who Decides? Issues of Access and Allocation in Health Care". Registrations are now being accepted and registration forms can be downloaded from the conference [website](#).